

May 30, 2019

The Portage Township Planning Commission (PC) May 30, 2019 public hearing was called to order at 7:00 by chair Melanie Watkins at 7:00 PM. Present were Watkins, Ted Soldan, Dave Rulison, Jeff Koski, John Ligon, Connie Sherry, and Peggy Anderson. Guest John Ollila was also present. The purpose of the public hearing was to satisfy the requirement for public input for the proposed language addition to the Special Use section under the Rural Residential section of the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed wording to be added was, "Land divisions according to Condominium Act of 1978."

John Ollila was the sole member of the public to attend the hearing. He suggested the planning commission makes it clear they do not guarantee that enough water is present in the development to provide sufficient private well water for all the proposed residents in this development.

Concern was also expressed about the sand leaving the site due to poor erosion control during large rain and spring runoff events.

There was some discussion about the need for such developments because the township has the highest per capita income in the county, and a need exists for more varied housing.

Public comment was closed at 7:15 pm.

The Portage Township Planning Commission (PC) May 30, 2019 meeting was called to order at 7:15, immediately after the public hearing, by chair Melanie Watkins at 7:00 PM. Present were Watkins, Ted Soldan, Dave Rulison, Jeff Koski, John Ligon, Connie Sherry, and Peggy Anderson. Guest John Ollila was also present.

Koski made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous two planning commission meetings. The motion was seconded by Rulison and passed.

A motion was made by Koski to add the following as a special use in the Rural Residential section Zoning District of the Zoning Ordinance: "Land divisions according to Condominium Act of 1978." The motion was seconded by Anderson and passed with 6 aye and 1 abstention.

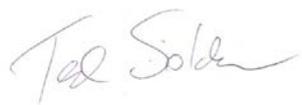
John Ollila reported he had a conversation with John Pekkala and the DEQ about the proposed development. Pekkala told Ollila the drainage ditch was built by and is the responsibility of Houghton County.

Ollila expressed concern about the cumulative runoff from multiple buildings and driveways would exacerbate the erosion problem. Ollila also reported that the DEQ (Hunter King) knew nothing about this development.

Next on the agenda was the master plan. It being 5 years since the commission sent the current master plan to the township board, another look at the document was called for. Ollila had several concerns about the master plan, and much discussion ensued between him and the commission. In the end, Ollila and Soldan agreed to work together to go through the document, clean up the grammar and spelling errors, and tighten up the language. These changes would then be presented to the township planning commission at their upcoming June 26 meeting for further discussion.

A motion was made by Jeff Koski at 9:25 to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Rulison and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Soldan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Soldan".

Ted Soldan, Secretary

Portage Twp Planning Commission 5/30/19
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1. Ted Soldan
2. Peggy Lee Anderson
3. Melaine Watkins
4. JEFF KOSK
5. Dave Rulisen
6. John Oltka
7. John Ligon
8. Connie Sherry